

Exhibit No. 9Date: 4/8/15Bill No. HD 425

April 8, 2015

Testimony of Pastor Paul McElroy before Senate Judiciary Committee

Re: HB 425

In our nation's history we have adopted national policies that have proven to be wrong and harmful decisions. Policies like slavery, denying women the right to vote, segregation have had to be changed when those policies were shown to be unconstitutional and a deprivation of human rights. Today we have an opportunity to change another policy that falls into that same category.

I want to talk about, not the unheard voice of the aborted babies, but of the consequences to women post abortion. I want to talk to you about the voices you probably have not heard. Voices that have remained silent because of guilt, hurt, trauma and sorrow.

I am a local pastor who has been in ministry for 30 years. I have seen first hand and counseled the wounded women who are the second victim of abortion. Some responses have been immediate to their abortion and some have taken years to show up. But I have heard so many of the same issues.

Things like: Physically: real and phantom pain in their bodies, difficulty in conceiving later in their lives. There have been some studies that have linked breast cancer and abortion reported by the American Cancer Society.

Psychological: Damages known today as P.A.S. (Post Abortion Syndrome) The abortion procedure has a high stress reaction within the mental and emotional life of the woman. This part of the procedure is most often ignored or denied by the abortion facility, minimized by partners and ignored by society in general. Manifestations of the damage come in the form of sense of loss and grief, remorse, denial and repression of emotions, isolated socially and have problems with intimacy with future partners, emotional numbness and calluseness, violence and aggressive patterns toward themselves including suicide.

Additional problems that come up are:

Difficulty with sleep, insomnia, and nightmare hearing the voice of the aborted baby crying,

Eating disorders such as bulimia, overeating and anorexia,

Higher risks of abusing the use of drugs or alcohol.

These are not a few isolated problems. Over my 30 years of counseling women who are in pain and can't find comfort, I have heard what you don't hear. The voices of the second victims of abortion. You have the power to change that in your deliberations. Not just to hear them but to help them not experience it to begin with. There are other ways of dealing with unexpected pregnancies.

Let's make Montana a state that does in fact care about ALL of its people, both the unborn and the mom's who suffer afterward . Thank you for opportunity to speak to you.